

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend claims 10 and 12.

1. - 9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A negative electrode for a rechargeable lithium battery, the negative electrode comprising a negative active material consisting essentially of a carbonaceous negative active material and an aqueous binder, the aqueous binder consisting essentially of a butadiene-based rubber and a cellulose-based compound, wherein during charging of the rechargeable lithium battery a total amount of gas is generated, the gas having a CO content of 30 volume % or less and a H₂ content of 0.2 volume % or less.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery comprising:
a positive electrode;
a negative electrode comprising a negative active material consisting essentially of a carbonaceous negative active material and an aqueous binder, the aqueous binder consisting essentially of a butadiene-based rubber and a cellulose-based compound; and
a separator;

wherein a total amount of gas is generated during initial charging, wherein the gas generated has a CO content of 30 volume % or less, and further wherein the gas generated has a H₂ content of 0.2 volume % or less.